

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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R 211558Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8028
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 20672

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T (ADD LINE 6 PARA 5)

EO 11652:XGDS-1

SUBJECT:INDOCHINA SITUATION: VIET NAM VIEWS

1. DURING JULY 21 DISCUSSION WITH CHARGE ON IENG SARY
VISIT, MFA UNDER SECRETARY ARUN SAID THAT VIETNAMESE
AMBASSADOR HOANG BAO SON HAD CALLED ON HIM THIS WEEK TO
EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE THAI HANDLING OF THE IENG SARY
VISIT.

2. ARUN SAID THAT HE VERY CAREFULLY EXPLAINED TO THE VIET-
NAMESE AMBASSADOR THAT THE THAI FEEL IT NECESSARY TO
ASSURE EQUAL TREATMENT IS GIVEN TO ALL OF THEIR VISITORS
FROM THE INDOCHINESE STATES. HE NOTED TO THE VIETNAMESE
AMBASSADOR THAT THE THAI HAD IN FACT ACCORDED VIETNAM
DEPUTY PRIMINISTER HUYNH TAN PHAT SIMILAR TREATMENT TO
THAT ACCORDED IENG SARY. IN THAT REGARD ARUN CONFIRMED
THAT THE RTG HAD IN FACT QUIETLY INTERVENED TO BLOCK IENG
SARY'S APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB
IN BANGKOK (BANGKOK 20093). ARUN SAID THAT THE MFA HAD
GENTLY EXPLAINED THAT APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FOREIGN CORRES-
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PONDENTS CLUB WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT
FROM THE SCHEDULE WORKED OUT FOR VIET NAM DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER AND THE MINISTRY SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESS CONFER-
ENCE BE HELD INSTEAD.

3. ARUN SAID THAT HE USED OCCASION OF THE VIETNAMESE
AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO QUESTION HIM ON THE CURRENT INDO-

CHINA SITUATION. IN DISCUSSING THE CURRENT TENSIONS WITH THE CHINESE, THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TOLD ARUN THAT THE PROBLEMS WITH THE CHINESE GO BACK TO THE PERIOD OF THE VIET NAM WAR WHEN THE CHINESE ATTEMPTED TO "INFILTRATE" THEIR SUPPORTERS INTO THE VIETNAMESE PARTY HIERARCHY. THESE ELEMENTS WERE PURGED AND THERE HAS BEEN BAD FEELING EVER SINCE.

4. ARUN PARTICULARLY QUERIED THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR ON VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT JOINING COMECON WAS ONLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS AND VIET NAM DID NOT BELONG TO ANY BLOC. WHEN ARUN ASKED HIM WHETHER THERE WERE ANY POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS TO THE DECISION TO JOIN COMECON, THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR, ACCORDING TO ARUN, WAS HESITANT AND RESORTED TO VAGUE GENERALITIES.

5. WHEN ARUN RAISED RUMORS ABOUT SOVIET ACTIVITIES AT CAM RANH BAY, THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THERE WERE NO RUSSIANS THERE. THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR SAID RUSSIANS HAD REQUESTED THE USE OF CAM RANH BAY AFTER THE FALL OF SOUTH VIET NAM. THEY WERE REFUSED THEN AND THE VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED THE MATTER HAS NOT COME UP SINCE O'DONOHUE

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